

BOOK NOTICE

Insect Fact and Folklore by Lucy W. Clausen. The Macmillan Company, New York. June, 1954. 194 pages + 45 figures. \$3.50.

This collection of insect facts and folklore has been many years in the making. It is the result of a fervor, nurtured and expressed during the waiting period, in whatever manner at hand, to convert anyone who might have a few minutes to spare to the study of Dr. Clausen's friends, the insects. The president of our Society, and the first female to hold that office, is a crusader of real ability in the field of promotion of interest in nature and particularly in insect study. In her work in the Department of Public Instruction in the American Museum of Natural History, she has been vitally aware of need for an authentic and interesting presentation of Insects as they effect man and his works.

The book is not lengthy, yet it is well constructed in a requisite number of chapters for good coverage of the field of popular inquiry into entomology. The fifteen chapters summarize the field from taxonomy to insecticides, with singular lack of prosaism. Her dragonflies are Master Aerialists, her wasps are Anesthetists and her termites are Undercover Workers.

It is not meant to stamp this book as having only popular appeal. It is needed in every entomological library because it is primarily a capable summary of much of the interesting background of the insects. As extra dividends there are 45 refreshingly original figures, by Jan B. Fairservis, as well as a number of proverbs, anecdotes, beliefs and superstitions on the subjects of her chapters.

If, as Dr. Clausen states, the purpose of this book is ". . . to make people aware of the fact that the majority of insects are interesting, necessary and do play an important part in the everyday life of all peoples", then she has had an admirable success in her first effort. I know her first teacher, "Andy" Mutchler, would join me in offering congratulations on her contribution toward a better understanding of the insect, entomology and the entomologist.—F. A. S.